



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Library

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District

During the year 1964.



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During the year 1964.

OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1964)

Councillor H. R. VYSE (Chairman)

W. R. CASHMORE

N. W. HUTCHINGS

A. E. DESBOROUGH

J. M. BARBER

E. P. WARD

R. PATTRICK

B. W. BROWNING

W. R. ABBOTT

N. CULLUP

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Scotchbrook and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Seventh Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

Old Fletton is situated immediately to the south of the City of Peterborough. It is a comparatively prosperous area with good living standards. The chief industries are Brick-making, Engineering and Food Canning, and during the appropriate season sugar is manufactured from sugar beet on a large scale. Many of the residents in the District work in Peterborough, and many from Peterborough work in Old Fletton. At peak travelling times the roads are extremely busy carrying persons in both directions and there is congestion at the only bridge into the City.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population of the District to be 12,290, an increase of 170 over the previous year.

There were 81 cases of Measles notified during the year and 11 cases of Whooping Cough. Apart from this there were not many cases of notifiable infectious disease.

During the Typhoid epidemic in Aberdeen the Public Health Inspector visited all the food premises in the area and the Ministry Cold Store at Woodston, searching for tins of corned beef originating from specified abattoirs. A few tins were removed and handed over.

Two hundred and fifty-five live births occurred during the year, thirty more than during the previous year, and the highest number which has ever occurred in the District. This gives a crude birth rate of 20.75 per thousand population and an adjusted rate, comparable with other districts, of 19.1 per thousand population. The rate for England and Wales is 18.4 per thousand population. There were 96 deaths during the year giving a crude rate of 7.8 per thousand and an adjusted rate of 10.5 per thousand comparable to a national rate of 11.3.

The waiting list for bungalows or other accommodation suitable for elderly persons increased to a remarkable extent during the year. Old people are living longer, and are in better health than they formerly were. Many prefer to live in their own homes, and to remain independent of their children for as long as they possibly can. At the end of the year there were 74 names upon the list.

At the present time the Council has 25 old peoples' bungalows and the building of five more was started during the year. The Coneygree Road Flatlets for old people were also started during the year, and will give a further 16 units of additional accommodation. There will be a warden within bell communication of all the inhabitants in case of emergency. Flatlets such as these will be most suitable for those persons who would find the running of a separate bungalow rather too much to manage.

The water supply to the District has remained very good ever since the new reservoir and pumping station at Fletton Spring came into use in 1960.

Work upon the Sewage Works extension, and the duplication of certain sewers, was started in the Autumn and will take $2\frac{1}{2}$ years to complete. At the time of writing the street works are causing considerable but unavoidable inconvenience in several parts of the District. It is an essential project in order to get the sewage away from certain of the lower lying areas in the District and thereby prevent serious surcharging and also that the sewage from the ever-increasing population of Fletton and parts of Norman Cross can be adequately treated without causing offence, and an effluent acceptable by the River Board be discharged into the river.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff, and also to my professional colleagues in the District for their help during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1964)	12,290
Density of persons per acre	4.06
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1964	4013
Rateable Value, 31/12/64	£595,838
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/64	£2463

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	255
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	20.75
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	1.6
Still-births	5
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	19.2
Total live and still-births	260
Infant deaths	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	11.8
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	7.8

INFANT DEATHS

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Actual Number of Deaths	6	7	4	2	2	3
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	26.0	29.9	17.9	9.7	8.9	11.8
Deaths from Cancer (total)						28
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus						8
Coronary Disease—angina						15
Other Heart Disease						8
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)						Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	20.75	18.1	7.8	10.5	11.8	19.2
England & Wales	—	18.4	—	11.3	20.0	16.3

Comparability Factor for Births	0.87
Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.34

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	50	46	96
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	3	8
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	4	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	6	10
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	6	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	3	5	8
21. Other circulatory disease	1	6	7
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	—	5
24. Bronchitis	2	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	—	2
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	1	1	2
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

HOUSING

The remaining sixteen houses on the Southfields Extension estate of 76 houses were completed during the year, and thereafter the general waiting list tended to lengthen although at the end of the year still only totalling 73.

Design work by the Architects on the High Density Scheme off Lawson Avenue continued.

The waiting list for accommodation for the elderly grew very quickly during the year reaching 74 at the year-end, and it became even more evident to the Council that this increasing emphasis on the needs of the elderly will be a permanent feature of the community's housing needs. As a short-term measure work was put in hand on a small infilling scheme of 5 bungalows on Southfields Avenue and these were purposely designed to be practically identical with the Heron bungalows to reduce preliminary design time. In addition design work was authorised on two small adjacent sites on Gordon Avenue for 8 flats.

Building commenced on Stage I of the Coneygree Road flatlets consisting of 16 units and a Warden's flat.

Seven houses were demolished under the Housing Act, 1961, and their occupants re-housed.

Twenty-five applications for Standard Improvement Grants, including seven for rented properties, were approved by the Council at a total cost of £3,168. The Government has now given Local Authorities the power to initiate compulsory improvement areas, although it must be said that the procedure is more involved and time-consuming than was hoped for.

In addition to the direct provision of rented housing accommodation the Council is assisting persons wishing to purchase their own houses by the provision of mortgages, and increasing use is being made by the public of these facilities. Thirty-one properties were valued for this purpose during 1964; as many as were done during the preceding four years, and the demand seems to be increasing.

Private house building, almost entirely on large estates, was responsible for the completion of 86 houses during the year.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	3056
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	3056
(2)	Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	14
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices —	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	12
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(A)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(C)	Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957	

CLEARANCE AREAS

(1)	Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	1
(2)	Total number of houses included in (1) above	4
(3)	Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5)	Number of families displaced during the year	2
(6)	Number of houses demolished during the year	7

WATER SUPPLY

I am pleased to be able to report that the water supply throughout the year continued to be satisfactory in quality, quantity and pressure. The charges levied of 10d. in the £1 of rateable value for the year, and 2/6 reducing to 2/- per 1,000 gallons for metered supplies, are among the cheapest in the country, and there is no doubt that whatever benefits might accrue to others from the projected amalgamation of undertakings it is difficult to see what improvement this can bring to our own area of supply.

The total volume supplied for the year was 310,000,000 gallons, an increase over 1963 of 14,500,000 gallons; both industry and housing participating in the increased demand.

Five water samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, and in all cases the result was satisfactory.

The water which is purchased from Peterborough has a Fluorine content of between 0.11 and 0.18 parts per million, varying according to the source from which it is obtained. It is a hard water, and is therefore not liable to have a plumbo-solvent action.

Over 99% of the houses in the District have an internal piped supply of water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A fixed-price contract for extension to the sewage disposal works and the provision of duplicate sewers was let during the year to Messrs. T.H. Contractors Ltd. in the sum of just over £320,000, completion to be effected in 2½ years. Work under this contract commenced during the autumn.

Due to the comparatively dry year little trouble was experienced from surcharging of the sewers, but the increased flow of foul sewage continued to cause difficulties in treatment.

The retention of suitable labour for sludge removal remains a problem, and the increasing age of the existing labourers (one over 70) means that their retirement must be anticipated in the near future.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council decided that the increase in separate properties over the last six years now warranted the purchase of a third collecting vehicle, and an order for a Shelvoke-Drewery 16/18 cubic yard fore-and-aft tipper was placed.

A careful watch was kept on the possibility of obtaining an economic outlet for baled waste paper. Re-commencement of sales would provide both income for the Council and a substantial bonus to collectors taking part in baling of this material. It is unfortunate that alternating

periods of glut and shortage have tended to cause a lack of confidence on the part of Councils in long-term investment in and reliance upon this market.

STREET SWEEPING

The mildness of the 1963/64 winter meant that there was no need to operate the emergency snow clearing arrangements operated by the County Council and this Council.

The increasing length of footpaths and roads necessitated the appointment in May of a third orderly.

Although the Lewin Mechanical Orderly had reached the end of its write-off period the Council decided to retain it for a further year, off-setting the absence of any depreciation charge against its high maintenance costs.

FOOD AND DRUGS

No prosecutions were instituted by the Council during the year, but this is not to say that the manner in which all food premises were conducted was entirely satisfactory. In particular, warnings had to be given in the case of a local bakery where the standard of care was below a proper level.

Seventy pounds of meat and 1,340 lbs. of tomato puree were condemned during the year.

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

As I forecast last year the Government have introduced legislation permitting an increased contribution towards the more sophisticated appliances required for the satisfactory combustion of the less reactive fuels taking the place of gas coke, now a diminishing product of the gas industry.

The Ministry gave approval to two additional Smoke Control Areas, No. 4 (Park Farm Extension), and No. 5 (Havelock Estate), totalling a further 37.8 acres.

One notice was received under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956 giving prior notice of intention to construct a new furnace. The minimum height required was calculated for, and accepted by, the applicant.

OPEN SPACES

The small recreation ground off Coneygree Road became available for use and has provided a useful open area especially with the projected temporary closing of the Chapel Street/North Street recreation ground.

A contract for the provision of a playing field adjacent to the Southfields Extension Estate was carried out, but due to difficult weather conditions the results were not satisfactory. The Contractor has agreed to give further attention to the field and it is hoped to re-seed in the coming Spring.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A start was made on the inspections required under this Act which came into operation during the year.

STAFF

The Council have appreciated that additional work is continually being placed upon their staff as for instance under the Act mentioned in the previous paragraph, and that if they are to press forward with all that needs doing on the Public Health front consideration will have to be given to the appointment next year of a second Public Health Inspector.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	12
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	3
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

Rats and Mice.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—VISITS AND DISINFECTION

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
No. of Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Premises disinfected :— (a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	24	18	1	Nil
Other Premises	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found		Nil		

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1964.

Total Deaths	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
Cases admitted to Hospital	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|
65 & upwards	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1
45 — 65	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1
35 — 45	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	—
20 — 35	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	2	|	|	|	2
15 — 20	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	—
10 — 15	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	—
5 — 10	|	|	1	|	|	1	30	3	|	4	|	|	|	1
4 — 5	|	|	|	|	|	|	14	2	|	|	|	|	|	—
3 — 4	|	|	2	|	|	|	9	2	|	|	|	|	|	—
2 — 3	|	|	|	|	|	|	16	2	|	|	|	|	|	—
1 — 2	|	|	|	|	|	|	9	1	|	|	|	|	|	2
under 1 year	|	|	|	|	|	|	3	1	|	|	|	|	|	—
TOTAL	|	|	3	|	|	1	81	11	|	5	2	|	|	7
DISEASE	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

	Erysipelas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Smallpox	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Measles	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Whooping Cough	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Meningococcal Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Food Poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Dysentery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough.
Tel. Peterborough 68010

